Increase in import of edible oil

2113. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of edible oil is likely to increase by 12 lakh tonnes, more than what had been envisaged earlier, at the end of October, 1987;

(b) if so. what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to deliver the entire supply of edible oil through P.D.S. in small packs of one kg.?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The quantum of import of edible oils is decided by the Government taking into account several factors like gap in demand & supply of indigenous edible oils, incentive to farmers, prevailing international prices, prices of edible oils in domestic market. constraints of foreign exchange, availability etc., which are reviewed from time to time.

(c) The Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, a public sector undertaking, is already marketing imported edible oil in small packs which are handed over to agencies nominated by the State Government. The State Governments are free to sell these through fair price shops or through cooperative outlets. Recently. Government have decided to supply maximum possible quantity of imported oil in small packs of 250 kg to 5 kg. through public Distribution System.

Requirement of Steel

2114. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the requirement of steel for the country by the turn of the century and the likely shortfall in the production of steel;

(b) what is the manner by which Government propose to fill up the shortfall and what portion of it is likely to be given to private sector and what portion to the public sector;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a steel plant in or around Hastar in view of the availability of quality iron ore in Bastar district, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is examining the best techno-economic options for filling up this gap.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal with the Government.

Red palm plantation

2115. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Red Palm plantation undertaken in Tamilnadu and Kerala has started yielding and if so, what is the quantity of the yield; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to further increase the average of red palm plantation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Red palm plantation un-